IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 3 at page 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the Step S7, when it is judged that the value (= x+1) obtained by adding 1 to the overlap portion counter x accords with the number of video cameras (8, in this case), that is, a condition is given in which there is provided the calculated cumulative sum of the absolute values of the differences between the pixels corresponding to the pixels at the prescribed pixel position in the overlap portions in the range of E2-1 to E1-2, E3-1 to ~~E2-1~~ E2-2, E4-1 to E3-2, E5-1 to E4-2, E6-1 to E5-2, E7-1 to E6-2, and E8-1 to E7-2, the processing moves on to Step S9.

Please replace paragraph 1 at page 39 continuing onto page 40, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this place, the edge difference comparing unit 102 calculates the distance from each of the pixels T1 to T8 of the picture P1 to its corresponding nearest pixel of the picture P2, and further calculates the sum of these distances as the edge difference FD. That is, in the present case, the pixel nearest to the pixel T1 is assumed to be the pixel T11, in which case, a distance |Coordinate T1 – Coordinate T11| (which represents the distance between the pixels T1 and T11, and the same is also applied to the following) is calculated, and likewise, distances |Coordinate T2 – Coordinate T12|, |Coordinate T3 – Coordinate T13|, |Coordinate T4 – Coordinate T13|, |Coordinate T5 - Coordinate T14|, |Coordinate T6 – Coordinate T14|, |Coordinate T7 - Coordinate T15|, |Coordinate T8 – Coordinate ~~T116~~ T16|, and |Coordinate T8 – Coordinate T17| are calculated, and the sum of these distances is specified as the edge difference FD. Incidentally, when there is no misalignment in the overlap portion, all the distances between the pixels on the edge are assumed to be 0, so that it is also allowable to perform the calculation of more than one distance between the pixels with reference to one pixel.

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Please replace paragraph 1 at page 40, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The adjustment amount ~~comparing~~ <u>determining</u> unit 103 instructs the processing and splicing unit 61 to shift the pictures based on the result of comparison supplied from the edge difference comparing unit 102, and also instructs, depending on the result of comparison, to read out and output, to the MPEG encoder 14, the omnidirectional image data presently contained in the frame memory 62.

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